

#STANDWITHBELARUS

Repressie in Belarus

Wies De Graeve – Directeur Amnesty International Vlaanderen

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Valery, peaceful protester

**I BELIEVE THAT NO ONE
SHOULD BE ALONE. WE ARE
THE FIRST GENERATION
GROWING UP WITHOUT
FEAR OF TOTALITARIANISM,
AND IT'S UP TO US TO
DEFINE OUR FUTURE.**

100 DAYS OF POLICE VIOLENCE IN BELARUS: HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE PEACEFUL PROTESTS BEGAN



Ergste repressie van recht op vrije meningsuiting, recht op vreedzaam protest en recht op vereniging sinds onafhankelijkheid van Belarus

Politiegeweld & straffeloosheid

- Politie gebruikt rubberkogels, schokgranaten, chemicaliën, waterkannonnen en andere niet-dodelijke wapens tegen vreedzame demonstranten
- Meer dan 30.000 mensen werden opgepakt en heel wat gevallen van foltering en andere mishandeling.
- Er is geen enkel onderzoek gestart tegen de politie, maar wel honderden zaken tegen vreedzame demonstranten



“ Whoever cried, begged [the officers] not to beat them—they were beaten even worse ”

Tsimur (name changed), Akrestina detention centre survivor

Vrouwen

Vrouwen nemen leidende rol in vreedzaam protest, maar krijgen te maken met harde represailles

“ In a deeply patriarchal society with endemic domestic violence, women in Belarus have risked everything to stand up for their beliefs. The Belarusian authorities have retaliated with measures intended to target women activists, and their organizations and families ”

Aisha Jung, Amnesty International's Senior Campaigner on Belarus

Kinderen

Kinderen gearresteerd, vervolgd, bedreigd tot op school omwille van activisme van hun ouders

Fourteen-year-old Aleh (name changed for security reasons) was detained in Minsk on 12 August by riot police in masks, alongside hundreds of peaceful protesters and bystanders. "In the minibus they beat him, pulled his hair and pulled his fingers back to force him to unblock his phone," his mother told Amnesty International. Police officers found a small flyer with the Belarusian red and white opposition flag in his pocket. This was enough for the child protection services to put the family on a watchlist claiming that Aleh lives in a "socially dangerous situation." Now, Aleh and his family live in constant fear of separation.

Ouderen

Ouderen mishandeld en extra in gevaar gebracht, onder meer in kader van pandemie

On 20 December 2020, 83-year-old Yanka (name changed for security reasons) was walking on his own holding a small flag bearing a historic Belarusian coat of arms, one of the symbols of protests. Yanka told Amnesty International that he was crudely grabbed and dragged into a police car by three police officers. In the police station Yanka was made to stand facing the wall with his hands up for an hour and a half.

Brede aanval op het middenveld: media

Onafhankelijke media de mond gesnoerd: gisteren (19/5) nog de website TUT.by

“ The blocking of the TUT.by website is a full-scale assault on the right to freedom of expression and media freedom in Belarus, and leaves a gaping wound in the country’s access to independent sources of information ”

Aisha Jung, Amnesty International’s Senior Campaigner on Belarus

Brede aanval op het middenveld: vakbonden

Onafhankelijke vakbonden geïntimideerd door arrestaties, boetes, vervolgingen en ontslagen

“ They [the pro-government trade unions] also hoped that things would change, but later the people with epaulettes arrived – the Ministry of Interior, the KGB – and explained to the [unions] how they should behave. How to save their skins ”

Vadzim Lapsik, co-founder of the branch of the Belarusian Independent Trade Union at the Belarusian Metallurgical Factory

Brede aanval op het middenveld: cultuur

Levendige cultuurscene versmacht door arbitrair oppakken en folteren van artiesten, muzikanten, schrijvers, acteurs en hen dwingen tot ontslag

“ After my first detention I felt scared to come home, I slept at friends’ houses most nights. Now I’m used to living with this constant sense of danger. We are all ready to become victims of state persecution at any moment ”

Vola Semchanka, an amateur folk singer and dancer

MENSENRECHTEN ONDER VUUR

- Helder voorbeeld van belang van mensenrechten in verhouding tussen machthebbers en individu/samenleving als geheel
- Mensenrechten zijn als een goede geest uit een fles
- De strijd voor mensenrechten vraagt moed, volharding en solidariteit
- Belarus leert hoe essentieel recht op vrijheid van meningsuiting, expressie, vereniging en protest is voor een vreedevolle en menswaardige samenleving
- Hoe zijn wij solidair met de burgers van Belarus? Wat kunnen wij doen? Hoe zit het met vrijheid van meningsuiting en protest in onze samenleving?

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BELARUS' BAN FROM EUROVISION 2021



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